

## Makino prepared for holiday season

MAKINO Aquatic Centre's readiness for the outdoor summer season is near complete, even though the cold, windy weather that has covered much of New Zealand in recent weeks has slightly hampered preparations.

MAC Manager, Nick Mannix, said the recent opening of the 50-metre outdoor pool was well received by regular and casual users, with good attendance figures already recorded.

And school groups were showing a keenness to make use of the outdoor complex

filtration tank and a general tidy-up of the gardens.

MAC Programme Coordinator, Adie Johansen, said a busy summer programme had been finalised with water slides and inflatables available every weekend from Saturday, January 9, to Sunday, January 24, when the impressive Black Belac makes an appearance.

The popular "Wet 'n' Wild" Westpac Children's Day is on Saturday, January 16, and features an all-new foam canon slide and the Aqua Run inflatable.

and it's not easy. They are there early in the morning, and the last to leave in the afternoon, and are often on duty in rain and snow."

She said the children faced big responsibilities in getting people safely across the road, especially for schools on state highways or in high density traffic areas, and it was upsetting that they sometimes copped abuse from passing motorists.

Ms Hayden said police was appreciative of the MDC in making the Makino available for the event and



CONSTABLE Diana Hayden negotiates the Makino Aquatic Centre's main pool with the first pile of sausages for the school road patrol members and road wardens.

– with its additional pools for learners, toddlers and divers – and have made bookings through until the end of the school year.

"We've not been helped by the weather," said Mr Mannix, "as it's been hard to heat the main pool to the right temperature (27 degrees) because of the cold south-easterly winds."

He said a pre-holiday work programme for the outdoor complex had been completed including repairs and retiling to the pool surrounds, maintenance of the

In the meantime, upwards of 300 school road patrol members and road wardens hosted at the Makino on Monday by the police to acknowledge the work the children had done throughout the past year.

Police Education Officer, Constable Diana Hayden, of Feilding, said the annual "thank you" was in appreciation of the challenging task undertaken by the year six to eight children for 40 weeks of the year.

"It's a hard, thankless job

Horizons Road Safe in providing the plentiful supply of BBQ sausages and drinks for the occasion.

\* MAC's second teen-only night, "The Nightmare before Christmas", is to be held from 7pm to 9.30pm tomorrow. MAC Manager, Nick Mannix, is hoping to attract more than 100 teenagers after the first such night, "Friday the 13th", was a great success when teenagers were alerted to the event by texting, Facebook and Bebo.

WRITER and storyteller Mary Kippenberger entertains a group of children after they enrolled for the Feilding Public Library's summer reading programme, Read Plus. More than 100 children aged 11 and above registered for the programme, which started Monday and runs until January 14. A further 300 children aged four to 11 enrolled for the Dive into Books activity which also runs until the middle of January. Children's Librarian, Jennie Hogan, was



thrilled with the response and Central Community to, and the on-going popularity of, the free Eastern programmes.

## Agriculture remains the backbone

THE "Mayoral Debate" with Palmerston North's Jono Naylor was reported as both mayors favouring amalgamation which was, in fact, far from the case.

Certainly we agreed that the current situation cannot continue and were looking forward to the report from consultants Morrison Low on the boundary situation – to be completed in May next year. That piece of work will be important for both councils as we consider the future in the lead-up to next year's Local Body Elections.

Agriculture has always been the backbone of the New Zealand economy and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future. However, our hill country is once again under considerable threat, and it must be wondered how long it will remain attractive for farming families to continue to put up with the uncertainties that New Zealand's volatile currency cre-

ates for their incomes.

It is essential for the future of the livestock industry that the hill country remains a valued and viable part of our economy. We do not want to



MAYORAL COMMENT  
by Ian McKelvie

see a return to the late '70s when the only purchasers for hill country land were forestry operations, as this will further depopulate the hills and impose greater costs on the rest of our community as the burden of keeping services and roading going in

those areas shifts out.

Our currency strength is driven by the consumptive nature of our economy and until it's realised that we must incentivise saving (not in rental houses) and recognise that Auckland is not the powerhouse of our economy (the farming industry is), we will continue to lag behind our competitors.

Did you know that every single man, woman and child in Australia has an average of \$73,000 in a superannuation fund. If we had that sort of investment in our country we would not be having to borrow \$250 million a week overseas, our interest rates would be lower (and so would our dollar) and our export sector would be competitive and able to pay good salaries and wages!

One last thing: I think we are going to win the Manawatu Turbos battle.

## District briefs

### Rates rebate reminder

MANAWATU District Council wishes to remind ratepayers that they may be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$550 if they have earned between \$21,910 and \$31,000 gross (joint income) between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009. Please contact the council on (06) 323-0000 to obtain an application form. You cannot apply for a rebate if the property is a farm or is used principally for commercial, industrial or business purposes; the property is a rental property; you have already applied for a rebate in the current rating year, or you do not qualify as the legal ratepayer.

### Second rates invoice to ratepayers

MDC has mailed out its 2009/10 instalment two rates invoice and any ratepayers who have not received the invoice are requested to contact the council directly on (06) 323-0000. Those ratepayers who pay rates via automatic payment are requested to ensure that these are sufficient to clear the amount owing by Friday, January 22, 2010.

### Health notice in rates mail out

AN advisory Ministry of Health public notice on plumbo-solvency has been included in the MDC's mail out of its instalment two invoice. The MOH advise that some current plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water overnight. It recommends that consumers flush a mugful of water from their drinking tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the fittings.

### Transfer station hours

FEILDING'S Transfer Station will be closed on Friday, December 25; Saturday, December 26, and Sunday, December 27, and re-opening on Monday, December 28. It will also be closed on January 1, 2 and 3, re-opening on Monday, January 4. The Rongotea, Kimbolton and Bunnythorpe Transfer Stations will not be open on their normal rostered Saturday's of December 26 and January 2, and will open instead on the respective following Monday's – December 28 and January 4.



## \$2.1 MILLION SUBSIDY FOR RONGOTEA WATER SUPPLY

### How could this benefit you?

Come and discuss what this means to you at a public meeting at 7.30pm, Wednesday, December 16, in the Te Kawau Memorial Recreation Centre.

Council is excited to offer the Rongotea community the choice to install a reticulated water supply at a greatly subsidised cost.

The New Zealand Government, through the Drinking Water Assistance programme, has approved an 80 percent subsidy to fund up to \$2.1 million for a reticulated water supply in Rongotea.

This means that for the town to install the water scheme the community has to fund only \$500,000 at a cost of about \$1,800 per property.

Come along to the meeting and help decide your community's future.

Wayne Spencer  
Water Manager